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THE

INTERIM

A REPORT OF INTERIM ACTIVITY . . . MONTANA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL . . . HELENA

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INTERIM COMMITTEES

ANNEXATION

The Study Committee on Annexation held a public hearing in Billings on Friday, January 11. The Committee will meet next on Saturday, March 1, to review and take further action on the discussion proposals which were the focus of the Billings hearing. An additional public hearing combined with a working meeting will be held in Missoula in early spring.

CORRECTIONS

The Study Committee on Corrections Policy and Facility Needs will meet in Helena on February 28 and 29. On Thursday, February 28, the Committee will conduct a public hearing in the SRS Building Auditorium, 111 Sanders, beginning at 9:00 A.M. The Committee will hear public comments on member proposed draft bills designed to revise Montana's criminal sentencing and parole laws and to create a corrections board of visitors. In addition, the Committee invites public comment and suggestions on state corrections policy for adult offenders. The Committee is also concerned about facility and program needs related to various policies. Among the interests of the Committee are prison release and furlough programs, pre-release programs and facilities, questions about the maximum size of a prison facility, community-based correction programs, and the health care of prisoners.

On Friday, February 29, the Committee will review information received at the public hearing and will begin to take substantive Committee action on the member proposed legislation discussed. Copies of the draft bills are available upon request.

BRANCHING OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

The Study Committee on Branching of Financial Institutions will hold its next meeting on April 14, 1980, to receive testimony from the Montana Bankers' Association concerning the needs for developing branching legislation and to consider any branching formulas established by the Montana Bankers' Association.

STATE
MANDATES

The Study Committee on State Mandates and the Effects of State-Owned Property on Local Governments met January 19 to review selected state mandates and to approve a work plan for an NCSL grant. Work under the now approved grant will focus on the question of state compensation to local governments for state-owned property.

The next meeting of the Committee will be April 19, when the Committee will address the following state mandates: county medical assistance, publication of proceedings and claims, probation officer, public defender, driver education fees, crime victim fees, compensatory time restrictions, and health/medical insurance premiums for firefighters/police officers. The Committee will also review costs to local governments for police, fire, and other public work services.

PUBLIC
RETIREMENT
SYSTEMS

The meeting of the Study Committee on Public Retirement Systems, held on February 2, 1980, related to the effects of inflation on the public retirement systems, as described by state officials and system administrators.

Participation in the study by an actuary is also under consideration by the Committee.

CONTAINER
COMMITTEE

For anyone who may have missed the notice last month, copies of the final report of the Committee on Containers are available on request from the Legislative Council.

REVENUE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

INCOME-
SPLITTING
RULE
CONSIDERED

At its January 12 meeting, the Committee received testimony from several taxpayers and county assessors on their concerns over the implementation of certain property tax and income tax laws. After considering the effect of the current rule governing the income tax allocation of income earned by spouses, the Committee voted to petition the Department to amend this rule to allow allocation of the income "in a manner that reflects the sharing of responsibility, management, and services."

LIQUOR
LICENSE
STUDY

The Committee discussed various alternatives to the liquor license quota system and requested staff to draft bills for discussion purposes only at the next meeting that would: 1) allow annual population estimates to be used as the basis for license distribution; 2) base quota limits on county populations; and 3) allow the Department to sell additional licenses at the current market value in each city.

TAX INTEREST
AND PENALTY
CHARGES
DISCUSSED

The Committee also reviewed a research report on the various interest and penalty rates charged for delinquent taxes under current statute. The Committee directed staff to prepare a bill that would make the interest paid to taxpayers on protested taxes or overpayments equal to that charged taxpayers for delinquent taxes.

The Committee will meet again on March 7-8 in Room 104, State Capitol, beginning at 1:00 P.M. on Friday.

COAL TAX OVERSIGHT SUBCOMMITTEE

MEETING

The Subcommittee will meet Saturday, February 16, at the Northern Hotel, Billings, at 10:00 A.M. Members will discuss the programs funded by the coal severance tax, particularly the local impact, alternative energy, and renewable resources programs. Senator Manning will report on pending federal legislation concerning energy, natural resources, and transportation.

LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE

MEETING

The Legislative Audit Committee will meet March 17, 1980.

ENERGY
DIVISION

A survey of the Energy Division, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, will be conducted by the Legislative Auditor.

PROGRAM
REVIEW

The Committee authorized a program review of the administrative functions at the Department of Professional and Occupational Licensing.

DEPARTMENT
OF REVENUE

At its January 31, 1980 meeting, the Committee awarded the contract to perform the audit of the Department of Revenue to Fox and Company, C.P.A.'s.

REPORTS
AVAILABLE

Copies of all reports are available from the Office of the Legislative Auditor, Room 135, State Capitol, telephone 449-3122.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

MEETING HELD

The Environmental Quality Council (EQC) met in Helena on January 25. Presentations addressing the problems of uranium exploration, taxation, economic development, and natural resource laws were given. Reports on legislative resolutions were also considered.

NEW ADDRESS
FOR EOC

EOC will be moving the end of this month. The new address will be 1209 8th Avenue. It should be noted that the telephone (449-3742) and the mailing address (Box 215, Capitol Station) will remain the same. The last Montana Legislature assigned the EOC the study of coordinating permit review procedures (HJR 60). They directed the staff to prepare and report recommendations for a coordinated permit program.

PERMIT REVIEW
PROCEDURES
STUDY

After investigating studies and reviews of existing coordination procedures and the laws and experiences of other states, EOC circulated some general concepts of a program for Montana. This mailing generated useful discussion, comment, and feedback.

EOC has now drafted a working paper which details a permit coordination procedure that incorporates the objectives of the resolution with the research and input.

To solicit additional comment for ongoing work, the Council has approved circulation of the draft working paper to all legislators, state agencies, and other interested parties. Copies of the draft will be mailed shortly for review. This will allow the staff to identify specific concerns and then address them in subsequent work.

The intent is to avoid or mitigate inherent problems and drawbacks in advance of the next legislative session.

[illegible]

LEGISLATIVE INTERIM CALENDAR

MONTH

MARCH

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

							1 ANNEXATION Rm. 104 9:30 a.m.
2	3	4	5 CAPITOL BUILDING AND PLANNING 1:00 p.m. Rm. 139	6	7 REVENUE OVERSIGHT 1:00 p.m. Rm. 104	8 REVENUE OVERSIGHT 8:00 a.m. Rm. 104	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
	30	31					

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